

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33-35, 38, 42, 46, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 133, 134, 140, 151, 152, 158, 169-172, 174, 192-194, 196, 214 and 215 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 31, 34, 35 and 61 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention; in addition, Claim 50 has been amended as to a formal matter, and Claim 215 has been added to assure Applicants of a full measure of protection. Claims 1, 31, 61, 133, 151, 169, 170, 192 and 214 are independent claims.

Consideration of Information Disclosure Statement

Initially, Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was submitted with their first Information Disclosure Statement, which was dated September 10, 1999. As a typographical error has been noted in that form PTO-1449 (in that the name of the patentee of the single listed document is misspelled), a new copy of the form PTO-1449 with the typographical error corrected, is submitted herewith.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 133, 134, 140, 151, 152, 158, 169-172, 192-194, 196 and 214, and the indication that Claims 4, 5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 34, 35, 38, 42, 46, 50, 53, 55, 57 and 59 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with no change in scope.

The Rejected Claims

Claims 1, 3, 31, 33 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,035,059 (Kurosawa et al.).

The display means previously recited in Claims 4 and 5 is now recited in Claim 1, although the phrase “attributes that are” that appeared in Claims 4 and 5 has been changed to --attribute that is--, to ensure proper antecedent basis in view of the language of Claim 1. In addition, the recitation previously in Claim 1 that “the layout reference information comprises a layout reference point and a layout reference size” is now recited in Claim 4. Corresponding changes have been made to Claims 31, 34, 35 and Claim 61. Newly added Claim 215 depends from Claim 61, and contains the recitations moved from Claim 1 to Claim 4. As a result of these amendments, it is believed that Claims 1, 31 and 61, and their various dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and the early passage to issue of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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